

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, May 28, 2004

MPDC INVESTIGATES ANOTHER SHOOTING OF A CHILD BY STRAY GUNFIRE

For the second time this month, the MPDC is investigating the shooting of a young girl by stray gunfire in a DC neighborhood. The latest incident happened May 23, when a 12-year-old Hispanic female was struck in the abdomen by a stray bullet while she was on the porch of a home in the 400 block of Shepherd Street, NW. She was taken to an area hospital and admitted in stable condition; she is expected to fully recover from her physical injuries. The preliminary investigation indicates that at least one of two black males on a red motorcycle began firing in the 400 block of Shepherd Street, NW. The 12-year-old female was then struck by stray gunfire. Detectives are still investigating exactly what precipitated the shooting, but it appears the subjects on the motorcycle may have been firing at a vehicle occupied by one or more subjects. By week's end, detectives were pursuing a number of leads, but no arrests had been made. To try and generate additional leads, the Department added up to \$10,000 to the standard \$1,000 Crime Solvers reward fund in this case. Tips from the public helped to solve the earlier child shooting, in which 8-year-old Chelsea Cromartie was struck in the head by a stray bullet and killed while she played inside a home in Northeast. Two men have been arrested and charged with murder in that case. Anyone with information about the latest case is asked to call the MPDC at (202) 727-9099.

- ① More details are at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2724>
- ① More details on the Chelsea Cromartie case are at:
<http://www.mpd.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2705>
- ① The DC Crime Solvers program offers rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest or indictment in many serious (non-homicide) crimes in DC. Learn more about Crime Solvers at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/aboutcrimesolvers.shtm>

FBI ASKS FOR PUBLIC'S VIGILANCE IN TRACKING POSSIBLE TERROR SUSPECTS

This FBI this past week called renewed attention to seven individuals who federal authorities believe pose a real and present danger to US interests around the world. Officials cited particular concern for possible terrorist attacks this summer and fall, a time of high profile public events that may well serve as a lightning rod to terrorist attacks. FBI Director Robert Mueller spoke frankly about the heightened threat to US interests during these months, and equally frankly about strong FBI efforts to prevent attacks. "This summer and fall our nation will celebrate a number of events that serve as powerful symbols of our free and democratic society," he said. "Unfortunately, the same events that fill most of us with hope and pride are seen by terrorists as prime vehicles for sowing fear and chaos." Photographs and additional information about the seven possible terror suspects have been distributed to MPDC officers and are being circulated to the public as well. One of the seven, a woman named Aafia Siddiqui, reportedly had lived in the Maryland suburbs in the past.

- ① Complete information on the seven individuals is on the FBI website:
<http://www.fbi.gov>
- ① Additional information and useful links on emergency preparedness in DC can be found at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/emergencypreparedness.shtm>

FORTY-THREE NEW OFFICERS HIT THE STREETS; BOTH RECRUIT AND LATERAL-HIRE OFFICERS GRADUATE

A total of 43 new Metropolitan Police officers are joining neighborhood patrols in all seven police districts, after being sworn in Friday by Chief Ramsey during ceremonies at the Georgetown University Law Center in Northwest. The officers include 34 new recruits who recently completed approximately 24 weeks of academic, physical and tactical training. The other nine are experienced officers from other law enforcement agencies hired under the MPDC's lateral-hire program. The lateral hires come to DC from a variety of local, federal and military police agencies, including Cleveland, OH, San Antonio, TX, Federal Air Marshals Service, and the Army and Marine Corps Military Police. Because they are experienced police officers, lateral hires complete a condensed training program at the Maurice T. Turner Jr., Institute of Police Science, focusing on DC code and MPDC policies and procedures. The new officers will all be detailed to one of the seven police districts and assigned to Police Service Area patrols. To enhance police services in DC neighborhoods, the MPDC is working to increase its ranks to 3,800 sworn members by the end of the current fiscal year.

JOINT OPERATION TARGETS IDENTITY THEFT, COUNTERFEIT RING

A joint local-federal operation targeting suspected identity thieves in the DC area has resulted in five arrests and the recovery of stolen credit cards and counterfeit currency and clothing, as well as firearms, illegal drugs and stolen property. Recently, MPDC detectives and members of the US Secret Service's Washington Area Fraud Task Force conducted a series of raids as part of an ongoing investigation involving suspects alleged to be trafficking in stolen credit cards, stolen property, drugs and suspected of being involved in identity theft. Armed with arrest and search warrants, members searched a BP gas station at 2600 14th Street, NW, an apartment located in the 1400 block of Euclid Street, NW, and a storage facility in Manassas, Virginia. As a result, a variety of items were recovered, including marijuana, crack cocaine and other suspected drugs, counterfeit US currency, suspected stolen credit cards, counterfeit clothing, CDs and DVDs, other clothing suspected of being stolen during a burglary, two handguns and two motor scooters. Five suspects, with addresses in DC, Maryland and Virginia, were also arrested as the result of the three-month-long investigation.

NEWS & NOTES

Mayor's Renames Local Prosecutor's Office. Mayor Williams this week signed an order renaming the Office of the Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia to the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. The mayoral order also designated Robert J. Spagnoletti as the first Attorney General for the District of Columbia. This change in nomenclature marked an important step in the ongoing efforts of the District of Columbia to earn its rightful place alongside the 50 states. Details at http://occ.dc.gov/occ/cwp/view,a,11,q,614505,occNav_GID,1521.asp.

Chief Ramsey on Radio, TV. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls and e-mails from the community in his media appearance in the upcoming week: Friday, June 4, from 4-4:30 pm, on "News Talk" on NewsChannel 8.

Help Children Go to Summer Camp. The Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) is working to raise \$25,000 to help at-risk youth in DC attend summer camp. The Joseph K. Smith Memorial Summer Camp Fund, is holding a dinner on Friday, June 4, from 6:30-10 pm, at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Rd., NE. For more information or to support this youth crime prevention effort, contact George Fenderson at (202) 291-6727.

Sign Up for News Release Updates. Keep up with the latest news from the MPDC. Receive e-mail alerts on news releases added to the MPDC News Room by going to www.dc.gov/registration/register.asp.

- ① Know someone who is interested in becoming a sworn member of the MPDC? Get details, including an online application form, at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtml>

- ① Read the complete news release at: <http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2722>
- ① Learn how to protect yourself from identity theft by visiting: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/idtheft.shtml>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 5/28/04)

- 2004: 80
- 2003: 100
- % Change: -20.0%
- Closure Rate: 53.8% (44 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 5/22/04)

- Total: 1,266
- Drugs: 174
- Weapons: 27
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 12
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 44

Firearm Recoveries (as of 5/25/04)

- May: 140
- 2004 Total: 841

Traffic Fatalities (as of 5/28/04)

- 2004: 25
- 2003: 22
- % Change: +13.6%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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